

U.S. Army Europe Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Awards ceremony remarks by Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., commanding general, USAREUR

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME TO SPEAK HERE TODAY-- IT'S AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL EVENT AND TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO RECOGNIZE A FEW OF OUR TEAM'S MOST PROMISING YOUNG JUNIOR OFFICERS.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE COMMANDERS, NCOS, AND SOLDIERS HERE IN ATTENDANCE FOR COMING OUT TO SUPPORT THESE FINALISTS. IT IS YOUR MENTORSHIP AND SUPPORT THAT HELPS REINFORCE THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP THAT WE'RE RECOGNIZING TODAY.

FINALLY, A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS PRESENT. YOUR ATTENDANCE HERE TODAY SERVES TO ILLUSTRATE WHAT MOST OF US IN THE ARMY ALREADY KNOW: THAT IT IS FAMILY LIKE YOU, WHO GIVE THESE MAGNIFICENT SOLDIERS THEIR STRENGTH.

THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US TODAY, AND SHARING THIS MOMENT WITH US.

THE MACARTHUR LEADERSHIP AWARD IS ONE OF OUR ARMY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS HONORS.

THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SUPERIOR JUNIOR OFFICER LEADERSHIP IN OUR ARMY.

FITTINGLY, THE AWARD BUILDS ON THE LEGACY OF ONE OF NATION'S MOST ICONIC MILITARY LEADERS—GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR.

WE ALL KNOW MACARTHUR AS A LIFELONG SOLDIER, A WEST POINT GRADUATE, WAR HERO, AND BRILLIANT STRATEGIST WHO LED US TO VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC.

BUT MACARTHUR WAS ALSO A LIFELONG STEWARD OF ARMY VALUES WHOSE SPIRIT CONNECTS GENERATIONS OF OFFICERS FROM THE POST-CIVIL WAR ERA TO THE 21ST CENTURY, HELPING TO PRESERVE THE TRADITIONS AND VALUES OF OUR ARMY, AND INSTILLING THEM IN THE SPIRIT OF THE OFFICER CORPS TODAY.

MACARTHUR IDENTIFIED THREE CORE VALUES THAT LIE AT THE HEART OF OUR PROFESSION, THE SAME VALUES THAT ARE ETCHED IN THE GRANITE WALLS OF HIS BELOVED WEST POINT, AND EMBODIED IN THEIR COAT OF ARMS: "DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY."

FIFTY-ONE YEARS AGO, MACARTHUR EXTOLLED THESE TIMELESS VALUES IN HIS FAMOUS ADDRESS TO THE WEST POINT CLASS OF 1962.

HE SAID, "THOSE THREE HOLLOVED WORDS REVERENTLY DICTATE WHAT YOU OUGHT TO BE, WHAT YOU CAN BE, WHAT YOU WILL BE."

THESE ARE VALUES THAT CONTINUE TO FORM THE CORE OF OUR PROFESSION TODAY.

DUTY— FULFILL YOUR OBLIGATIONS. DOING YOUR DUTY MEANS MORE THAN CARRYING OUT YOUR ASSIGNED TASKS. DUTY MEANS BEING ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION AS PART OF A TEAM.

DUTY IS ACTING IN THE ABSENCE OF ORDERS OR DIRECTION FROM OTHERS, BASED ON AN INNER KNOWLEDGE OF RIGHT AND WRONG.

INTERNALIZING AND EXEMPLIFYING THIS SENSE OF DUTY IS WHAT WE EXPECT OF OUR ARMY'S LEADERS, AND THE OFFICERS AND WARRANTS THAT STAND HERE TODAY DO JUST THAT.

HONOR— LIVING UP TO THE ARMY VALUES.

WHILE EACH OF THE ARMY VALUES IS INDISPENSIBLE IN ITS OWN RIGHT, IT IS HONOR THAT IS PERHAPS THE CENTRAL VALUE.

HONOR IS A WILLINGNESS TO STAND UP AND TAKE AN OATH, TO DEFEND YOUR NATION, AND TO EMBRACE ALL THE OTHER COMPONENTS THAT MAKE UP OUR CORE VALUES.

IT IS HONOR THAT TIES THE REST OF THE ARMY VALUES TOGETHER.

AND IT IS THE WORD "HONOR" THAT FORMS THE KEYSTONE OF THE THREE IDEALS ON WHICH WEST POINT IS FOUNDED, AND THE CENTRAL THEME OF MACARTHUR'S MESSAGE.

COUNTRY— OUR LAND, OUR BORDERS, OUR PEOPLE.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, OUR CONSTITUTION—THE VERY DOCUMENT WE TAKE AN OATH TO DEFEND.

IF YOU LOOK AROUND YOU'LL FIND THAT MOST SOLDIERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TAKE AN OATH TO DEFEND A KING OR A PRESIDENT, A MOTHERLAND, OR A GOVERNMENT.

BUT WE TAKE AN OATH TO DEFEND OUR CONSTITUTION—AN IDEA.

AND THAT IS WHAT SETS OUR MILITARY APART. BECAUSE OUR COUNTRY IS FOUNDED ON IDEAS, EMBODIED AND ENSHRINED IN OUR CONSTITUTION.

IT IS THAT CONCEPT, THAT IDEA, WHICH MAKES UP THE FOUNDATION OF OUR COUNTRY.

AND IT IS THAT IDEA-- OUR COUNTRY-- THAT WE HAVE SWORN TO DEFEND.

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY.

THESE ARE THE VERY SAME VALUES WE HONOR HERE TODAY, EPITOMIZED IN THESE FINE YOUNG LEADERS THAT STAND BEFORE YOU.

THESE FINALISTS REPRESENT SOME OF THE BEST JUNIOR OFFICERS FROM OUR USAREUR TEAM.

THESE ARE THE LEADERS WHO DEMONSTRATE THE PRINCIPLES OF "DUTY, HONOR, AND COUNTRY" ON A DAILY BASIS, AND WHO ARE IDENTIFIED BY THEIR COMMANDS AS EXHIBITING OUTSTANDING MILITARY PERFORMANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND ACHIEVEMENT.

OF MORE THAN 1,800 OFFICERS ELIGIBLE ACROSS USAREUR, TODAY WE RECOGNIZE 11 WHO STAND OUT ABOVE THE REST.

IN A COUPLE MINUTES WE'RE GOING TO NAME THREE OF THEM WHO WILL GO ON TO REPRESENT USAREUR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY-LEVEL AWARD COMPETITION.

BUT BEFORE WE DO, LETS GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO ALL OF THESE FINE YOUNG SOLDIERS TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND FOR THE EXAMPLE THEY SET FOR THE REST OF OUR TEAM.

THE SPIRIT OF GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR LIVES ON THROUGH ALL OF YOU, THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS, AND THROUGH YOUR LEADERSHIP.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES, AND THANK YOU AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

STRONG SOLDIERS, STRONG TEAMS!